

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF MASK MANDATE AND OTHER MITIGATION MEASURES

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker declared all counties in Illinois as disaster areas and implemented the State's Emergency Operations Plan in response to the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the U.S. President declared a national state of emergency and Governor Pritzker ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Illinois in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker announced the Restore Illinois plan which addresses the public health approach to safely reopen the State; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced the State entered Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control issued updated "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools" and on July 9, 2021, the Illinois Department of Public Health adopted that Guidance;

WHEREAS, the CDC's updated guidance recommends that masks should be worn indoors by all individuals who are not fully vaccinated;

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2021, the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE") issued guidance allowing school districts to decide whether to remove any of the prevention strategies for their schools based on local conditions, doing so one at a time, while monitoring closely for any increases in COVID-19 cases;

WHEREAS, since May 8, 2021, the COVID-19 test positivity rate for Will County has been below 5%, which is considered “minimal”; and

WHEREAS, since May 29, 2021, the COVID-19 new case rate per 100,000 residents in Will County has been below 50, which is considered “minimal”.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The recitals above are adopted and incorporated herein;
2. Effective with the start of the 2021-22 school year, the Superintendent is hereby directed to remove the School District’s mandatory mask requirement for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status;
3. Provided COVID-19 positivity and transmission rates remain low in the school and community for a reasonable period of time following the removal of masks, the Superintendent is also authorized to gradually remove any other COVID-19 mitigation measures previously in place, while continuing to monitor COVID-19 transmission rates in the schools and/or community;
4. The Superintendent is authorized to reinstate any COVID-19 mitigation measure that has been removed, including mandatory masks, in the event the Superintendent determines it necessary to protect the health and well-being of students and staff due to rising COVID-19 transmission rates in the schools and/or or greater community or to otherwise protect the best interests of the School District; and,
5. The Superintendent is directed to reinstate any COVID-19 mitigation measure that has been removed, including mandatory masks, in the event the State of Illinois hereinafter mandates such mitigation measures in schools.

Member Uthe moved adoption of the resolution and Member Bettenhausen seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYES: (4) Robinson, Uthe, Bettenhausen, Becker

NAYS: (1) Stoub

ABSENT: (2) Moe and Love

Approved this 19th day of July, 2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
PEOTONE COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT 207U
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

By:

Tara Robinson

President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

Jennifer Moe

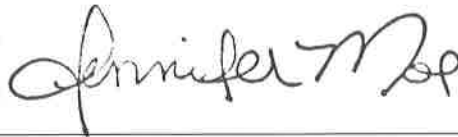
Secretary, Board of Education

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF WILL)

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified Secretary of the Board of Education of Peotone Community Unit School District 207U, Will County, Illinois.

I do further certify that the foregoing relates to the July 19th2021 Board meeting proceedings and the adoption of the RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF MASK MANDATE AND OTHER MITIGATION MEASURES. A true, correct and complete copy of said Resolution, as adopted at said meeting is attached hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature at Will County, Illinois, this 19th day of July, 2021.



Secretary, Board of Education